

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 13, 16, 18, 21, 25, and 26 will have been amended for consideration by the Examiner.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejection of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on February 3, 2005 by the return of the initialed and signed PTO-1449 Forms, and for consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement.

Turning to the merits of the action, the Examiner has objected to claim 26 because of a language informality. By the present amendment, Applicant has amended claim 26 to eliminate the informality. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Examiner has objected to claim 15 because claim 15 is dependent upon a rejected claim. By the present amendment, Applicant has amended claim 13 to include the limitations of claim 15 therein. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests, from the Examiner, an indication of the allowability of claim 13. Further, Applicant also has amended claims 16, 18, 25, and 26 in the same manner as claim 13. Thus, Applicant

P18445.A15

respectfully requests, from the Examiner, an indication of the allowability of each of these claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by ZULI (U.S. Patent No. 6,145,084). The Examiner has rejected claims 13-14, 16-19, 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ZULI. As noted above, Applicant has amended these rejected claims to include the indicated to be allowable subject matter, and respectfully submits that these rejections have thus been rendered moot.

Applicant respectfully notes that the amendments of the claims have been made merely to advance the prosecution of the present application and thus should not be taken as an acquiescence in the appropriateness of the rejections. Further, Applicant expressly reserves the right to submit claims of a corresponding scope in another application. Thus, the amendments of the claims in the present application is expressly made without prejudice.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, and requests an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application, in due course.

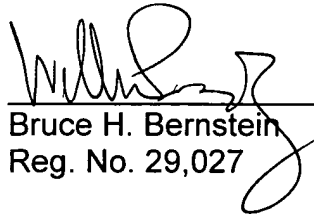
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has amended the objected to claims and the rejected claims for consideration by the Examiner. With respect to the pending claims, Applicant has pointed out the features thereof. Accordingly, Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all claims in the present application and respectfully requests an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

The amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kiyoshi TOYODA


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630

August 23, 2005
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191